

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 2, 2004      LB 1093

Opposed to the motion say nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Maxwell would move to bracket the bill until April 15, 2004.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Maxwell, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion to LB 1093.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I intend to withdraw the bracket motion when I'm finished with my comments, but I do want to make them. I feel somewhat obligated after some of the things I said earlier this morning. Pages are passing out the chart. You've seen the chart. Don't worry, it's shrunk down to one 8 1/2 by 11 sheet. On the back is some new info. That's just for your information. I'm not going to go through it all. In fact, I've crossed out the specifics, some of the specifics that I was proposing. I don't want people to even get hung up on the specifics of anything I've proposed. I'm just trying to take one last shot to convince you of the basic proposition that change is necessary in school finance. There was a lot of talk this morning about doing something; we've got to do something. If you want to do something, if you are really serious about fundamental long-term reform, then it's time to focus on school finance. Senator Chambers suggested the course of action that makes the most sense to me on General File. He had a motion to IPP this bill, and in an exchange with Senator Raikes, he suggested that maybe we need to break out into a special session and just focus on school finance to get this sorted out. We've been looking at ways to pay for a potential nuclear waste dump judgment because we don't have a reserve fund to cushion the blow. We don't have a reserve fund to cushion the blow because in the mid to late nineties we overcommitted to spending, especially in state aid. We are...we have been and in this bill are wrestling with the levy lid because if we do what we promised the public we would do and let the lid go back to \$1.00, we get hit with a \$300 million fiscal shock wave from state aid in the next biennium. I don't understand how it couldn't be more obvious. I don't know how you can look at the numbers and look at what we're doing and reach any other conclusion. We have been turning a blind eye to the main problem that has been driving our fiscal crisis in